

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 213

House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial anniversary of Independence Lodge #10 in Orwell

Offered by: Representatives Buxton of Tunbridge and Eastman of Orwell

Whereas, for two centuries, Independence Lodge #10 (originally #40), a Masonic Lodge in Orwell, has provided camaraderie for its members, and

Whereas, the lodge's proud history started on October 9, 1815, when the Grand Lodge of Vermont F&AM (Most Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of Vermont) issued the Orwell lodge its charter, and

Whereas, the first three leading officers of Independence Lodge #40 were Waite Branch (Worshipful Master), Ashur Nichols (Senior Warden), and Joel Barber (Junior Warden), and

Whereas, early on, Independence Lodge #40 convened its meetings at various Orwell locations, including upstairs in the Eagle Inn, and

Whereas, in the 1830s and 1840s, anti-Masonic hysteria and prejudice were prevalent in Vermont, but Independence Lodge #40 persevered, conducting its meetings clandestinely until 1847, when it was once again safe to meet openly, and

Whereas, in 1849, Independence Lodge #40 was redesignated as Independence Lodge #10, the numeric designation it still retains, and

Whereas, by the 1860s, Independence Lodge #10 sought to end its nomadic existence, and for the sum of \$250.00 purchased a white clapboard building on Orwell's Main Street, and

Whereas, on January 23, 1867, Independence Lodge #10 inaugurated its new home with a meeting in a room on the building's second floor, its meeting location ever since, and

Whereas, from 1934 to 1936, an Independence Lodge #10 member, Julius Charles Thomas, served as the Grand Master of the Most Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of Vermont, and

Whereas, Independence Lodge #10 has awarded scholarships to children and grandchildren of its members, recognized outstanding area sixth graders, and donated funds to local schools and civic groups, and

Whereas, on September 19, 2015, Independence Lodge #10 celebrated its bicentennial anniversary with officers of the Grand Lodge of Vermont dedicating a new granite cornerstone on the lodge's historic Main Street building, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the bicentennial anniversary of Independence Lodge #10 in Orwell, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Independence Lodge #10 in Orwell.